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COUNTRY **Bulgaria**

REPORT

SUBJECT **Military Activity in Krumovgrad**

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

Movement of Troops

1. On 17 March 1955, a large column of troops were observed entering Krumovgrad from the direction of Tokachka (N 41-22, E 25-32) on the Krumovgrad-Kamotini highway. [] more than 1,000 troops were involved in a one kilometer long column. The soldiers were in battle dress with full packs, but without helmets. They wore red lapel tabs. Approximately 50 covered and open carts, pulled by one or two horses or mules, were with the column. The open carts carried hay and barrels. [] about 10 cannons mounted on rubber tires pulled by two pairs of horses. Most soldiers carried submachine guns. [] an unidentified number of light machine guns. Twenty officers were on horses. The column proceeded to the Krumovgrad barracks.

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Formation of Military Committee in Krivovgrad

2. On 10 February 1955, a military committee was formed in or came to Krumovgrad and set up headquarters in the basement of the Vasil Levski school. Their job was to examine all men from the classes of 1906 to 1931 (the latter just having been demobilised) and all those who had been deferred or who had paid not to serve from the classes of 1932 and 1933. The committee was handling the entire Krumovgrad Okoliya. Every eligible man received [redacted] the hour and date they were to appear before the committee [redacted]
3. The review by the committee was a gradual one and they started with the class of 1906. [redacted]

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4. The committee was composed of at least 15 military and civilian personnel. A full medical examination was given and each man was asked the size of his shoes and clothing. An examination would last almost an entire day for a given group. At the end of the examination, the old military books were taken away and new ones issued. Sick and deferred persons were not issued new books and their old ones were taken away. The new books are smaller than the old ones, about 10 x 7 cm in size, and were covered with cardboard covers similar to the Lichen Passport.

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5. [REDACTED]

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6. By 20 March 1955, all men from the classes of 1906 to 1933 in Lulichka had appeared before the committee and received his new book from the Okeliya seat under which his village came. Some residents of Lulichka who were working in Zlatograd had to come home for this purpose.

Trial Mobilization

7. Around October 1954, a trial mobilization took place in Krumovgrad and portions of the Okeliya. The men were gathered in the Vasil Levski school and the Peoples Council premises.
8. [REDACTED] all Bulgarians who were residents of Krumovgrad city were mobilized with the exception of the old and sick and those with sensitive jobs (political or industrial). A few Bulgarians from the Okeliya villages were mobilized and a very few Bulgarian Moslems who were working in Krumovgrad were also mobilized. About 400 men were involved in the trial mobilization.
9. During this time, entrance to the school and Peoples Council was absolutely forbidden to unauthorized persons. Guards from among those mobilized were placed on guard at these buildings. The following day the men were escorted by five officers to the Krumovgrad barracks, where they were issued brand new uniforms with red collar tabs, pants and high brown shoes. They were quartered in the barracks and the following day were taken out of town to an unknown destination. Only about 10 persons remained in the barracks.
10. [REDACTED]
11. During the course of the trial mobilization, armed patrols made up of Communist Party members patrolled the streets of Krumovgrad from 7 p.m. to 6 or 7 a.m. These patrols were in addition to the normal Militia patrols and these civilian patrols were disbanded upon return of the mobilized men.
12. At the same time the men were mobilized, about 200 horses and mules were also requisitioned. They were gathered from Smolyan and Zlatograd Okelii and taken to Krumovgrad under escort of about 20 soldiers and several officers. The horses and mules left town with the mobilized troops.

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Armored Vehicles in Krumovgrad

14.

 until October 1954 there were two armored vehicles in Krumovgrad. After that date, the number of tanks increased to five or six.

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